

It is indeed a sad and a pitiful thing to see ability gone astray; talent squandered upon phrasemaking; genius thrown into the lap of the harlot. The more

GENIUS

DEBAUCHED. potentially able a man is, the more unpleasant is the spectacle of his alliance with the undesirable portion of the community. Dr. G. Frank Lydston, of Chicago, has gone out of his way to effect an alliance with the nostrum interests and to use his ability as a writer to help bolster up their failing cause of unrighteousness. The many "undesirable citizens" who have amassed fortunes out of the medical profession by the simple means of promoting nostrums, have fought in vain against the slow but sure work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. They have done everything in their power to create discord in the House of Delegates of that body. They have even had their own paid representatives elected as delegates with the deliberate object of creating dissension. But it has all been unavailing. The widely published attacks upon the Association (they have cost a lot of money; did the Proprietary Association put it up?) have done but little except to bring into closer harmony the great big majority of the A. M. A. This they have fully appreciated and so it has occurred to them as the last possible chance of creating discord, to attack the Secretary of the A. M. A., who is also the editor of the much hated *Journal* of the Association. And poor old Lydston had to go back a quarter of a century to find anything material upon which to base an attack that might have been bitter, were it not spoiled by his childish desire to turn a "cute" phrase and express his own unbounded admiration for himself. What a man has done—his record—means nothing in a partisan fight like this attack on Dr. Simmons. It means nothing to these throwers of manufactured mud that the *Journal* of the Association has come to be, in the last ten years, and under Dr. Simmons' management, the foremost medical publication in the world. It means nothing to these gentlemen (Heaven save the world!) that the Association has grown and thrived beyond the fondest dreams of those who helped its reorganization less than a decade ago. But it does mean much to this coterie that, with growth and prosperity, has come an ability to attack fraud and dishonesty and trickery, and to put out of business many a fake nostrum and many a fraudulent proprietary whose only worth was in the value of its advertising. And it is with the ranks of the fakes and the frauds that Lydston joins in attacking the Association, through its Secretary and Editor. The downfall of a possibly great man is a pitiable thing; there is no antagonism against Dr. Simmons raised by such obvious attacks; only pity for Dr. Lydston.

Time will probably convince the most skeptical, if there be any with grave doubts, that the amalgamation of the Medical School of the University of Southern California (a sectarian institution) with the University of California is a notable

NOTABLE ADVANCE.

step forward, not alone for the Southern medical school, but also for medical education in the state and for the State University. A graduate from Berkeley, now studying law at Harvard, writes a personal letter on the subject from which we can not resist the desire to quote a few sentences:

"We have a pretty long coast line within which to concentrate public interest on any one institution. . . . People do not feel a great interest in something five hundred miles away whose influence can not touch them. But there is no better effect than knowing that the finest and most up-to-date institution near them is a living part of a larger organization which stands as an activity of the whole state. We needed something in Southern California very much, which would remind people of the underlying unity in higher and professional education. It will tend in the long run to make the Tehachapi less of a barrier to those who feel that the interests of both sides can not remain in common. I feel that all who are interested in the progress of either or both will extend mutual congratulations for an important step."

We understand that the present senior class will receive diplomas from the University of Southern California, but that subsequent classes will receive the diploma from the state institution at Berkeley. Just how the many details will work out, of course no one can say. But that both the medical department in the North and the one in the South will benefit, seems a very strong probability. Interest in the state institution is now brought close home to the legislators from the South—and the Southern delegation has always been a very strong one in our legislature. Surely, one can scarcely imagine a more satisfactory way for the expenditure of general funds than the upbuilding of the state's machinery for higher education and for the benefit of the entire people of the state. Probably there will be a falling off of students in the Southern medical school, for two or three years, or until the newly created standards requiring two years to be spent in general university courses of a pre-medical nature, but after that period the school should take on a new lease of life and its classes and its work should materially increase and improve. One word of suggestion—probably unnecessary—we would give to those in control of the Southern school; hunt out well prepared young men and work them into the school. There are plenty such only waiting for an opportunity; let them have it.

Under date of February, 1909, Leland Stanford Junior University puts out a preliminary announcement of its Department of Medicine, founded as Cooper Medical College. The taking over of Cooper Medical College by Stanford University, is a notable event for our state and for medical education in general. The plan adopted by most, if not all university medical departments, is here to be followed, and at least three years of

university work of a pre-medical character are required before the student enters upon his purely medical work, which will take another four years, thus making a seven-year course. It has been said that the day of the proprietary medical school is over; whether or not this is actually true, is not a fixed matter of fact but is still open for discussion and subsequent events to demonstrate. True it is, however, that the day has gone when a medical school can be operated as a matter of profit for the owners or the faculty and comply with the legal requirements of the licensing boards of the various states. Much less than a generation ago, there were practically no laws governing the practice of medicine that required a medical school to teach real medicine, and at the best schools the course was not over three years; now, as we see from this announcement of the Medical Department of Stanford, a seven-year course has become the order of the day. The question arises, what is to become of the class of individuals who can not afford to give seven years to the study of medicine? Is there not room for the proprietary school, taking applicants with fairly good preliminary education—say high school graduates—and giving them a fairly good four-year medical course that will meet all reasonable requirements? There are many men who believe that this is the case and that proprietary schools of this character, a few of them at least, will not only survive, but will be a necessity. There is no doubt, though, that the day is gone for the school that does not attempt to live up to the minimum of required standards; examining boards in the various states have quite effectually killed off this pernicious parasite. With the amalgamation of the Southern school with the State University, and of Cooper College with Stanford University, medical education in California has made a tremendously important advance in the last few months. Truly, the world do move; hard work does pay.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, in charge of the administration of the Pure Food and Drug Law, ruled, some time ago, that benzoate of **BENZOATE OF SODA** soda was harmful and should not be used as a preservative of food-stuffs. Immediately there was a tremendous howl from a large number of canners and packers. Not that benzoate of soda is necessary to the preservation of good, wholesome food-stuffs, properly treated; but that it is necessary for the preservation of semi-decayed fruit and vegetables, and some canners derive great profit from the sale of just this sort of raw material which, with the addition of a chemical preservative may be canned, but without it will not keep. All the honest manufacturers who do not fear honest competition, were with Dr. Wiley in his ruling; they welcomed it as a relief from dishonest competition. But the kickers won the day and a special commission was appointed to study the matter and report to the Secretary of Agriculture, who is Dr. Wiley's chief. That special commission has just

reported and their findings completely reverse Dr. Wiley's. This is a very great misfortune; not that it should appear that benzoate of soda is harmless, but that dishonest manufacturers should be given the opportunity to use a lot of rotten or half rotten stuff and get it on the market and so into people's stomachs by the use of benzoate of soda. But, fortunately, such manufacturers must print upon the label the fact that the goods are preserved with benzoate of soda, and the quantity; and we suspect that a good many people will, in time if not at once, learn to look for the label on the package and will discard the goods of such doubtful quality that they need a chemical preservative. And furthermore, the honest manufacturers will make, indeed they already are making, use of the facts as good advertising; they are forcing attention to the fact that by using good material and proper and cleanly methods, they are putting out articles that do not contain benzoate of soda or any other doubtful chemical substance. Of course the opposition is gleefully making every possible use of this decision in its renewed attempts to discredit Dr. Wiley. But we are of the opinion that Dr. Wiley, having the support of every right thinking person, will survive this opposition and will continue to administer the law in an honest and sane manner. All success to him.

A car has been fitted up and is to be taken from place to place by the railroads, for the purpose of giving demonstrations to the people, at close range, of some of the fundamental and more important

DEMONSTRATIONS ON HEALTH.

facts relating to public health matters. The credit for this enterprise is largely due to Dr. Colby Rucker, of the U. S. P. H. & M. H. S., who has been stationed in San Francisco for some time past as Dr. Blue's executive officer in the anti-plague work, and to Dr. N. K. Foster, Secretary of the State Board of Health. Of course the car will be accompanied by lecturers and demonstrators who will explain the various exhibits and give practical and helpful lectures anent them. This should be only the beginning of a campaign, definitely planned and consistently executed, to bring common sense to the people and in a way that they will be compelled to understand. The general lack of knowledge pertaining to the most absurdly commonplace facts of sanitation, is shocking. In these opening years of the twentieth century, it is worse than a disgrace to see the legislators of a great state like California, calmly passing a law doing away with the people's only safeguard against epidemic smallpox—the compulsory vaccination law. But they are ignorant of the facts. The people also are ignorant of the facts, for it is probably safe to presume that the general average of intelligence of the legislators is at least as high as, if not higher than, that of the general people. They all need instruction and advice, and while it would be easy to give this, could one secure the audience, it remains difficult for the reason that it is hard to